



# City of Carlsbad

## Office of the Chief of Police

### ***POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS***

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#### **POLICE WARN RESIDENTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCAM**

Two elderly females were recently victimized by someone posing as a Water District employee, and police are warning all residents to be wary of such fraud.

In the most recent Carlsbad case, an 80-year-old woman was approached at her door by a man who claimed to be a Water District employee. He stated that he was there to check on the water pressure in her residence due to a water pipe break in the area. The suspect had the victim turn the water on in one area of the house while he supposedly checked the water in another part of the residence. After the suspect left, the victim realized that her wallet, checkbook, and credit cards had been stolen.

The suspect is described as an Hispanic male in his 40s, approximately 5' 5", 175 lbs, with a medium build. The cases in Carlsbad are similar to cases in San Diego and El Cajon.

It is unlikely that a Carlsbad Municipal Water District employee would need to access the interior of a residence. Residents can verify the identity of anyone claiming to be from the Carlsbad Municipal Water District by calling 760-438-2722. If there are any concerns, residents are asked to immediately contact the Police Department at 760-931-2197 with a description, license plate, and direction of travel if possible.

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Carlsbad police officials offer the following safety tips to avoid becoming a victim of a scam:

- Follow identity theft prevention guidelines by never giving a credit card or a check to anyone who solicits you and you do not know. It is often very difficult to determine if someone is legitimately representing a real organization or charity.
- Always look through the peep hole or window and see who is at the door and never open the door to someone you do not know.
- Teach your children what to do if they are alone and someone comes to the home or is looking in windows.
- If you do not know who is at your door, say “No thank you” through the door and walk away.
- If you notice anything suspicious, please call the police department when the activity is happening (760-921-2197 24 hours a day).

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